

David Charles'

Boston Vintage Sports Flashback

ISSUE #16 – August 15, 2023

AUGUST 16, 1946

HARRIS BAFFLES YANKS, SOX LEAD BY 13 GAMES

Joe DiMaggio Homers, Quits With Sore Arm

By Harald Kease, The Boston Globe

It's a hard life for Red Sox rivals, especially the Yankees. The Red Sox have them down; now they're starting to kick them.

A 4-1 kick in the teeth from our league-leaders at Fenway Park yesterday put the Yankees a full 13 games behind, giving 29,266 patrons the impression that the runners-up are rapidly running down.

The big Friday crowd raised the Red Sox home attendance over a million for the first time - to 1,015,166, to be exact.

Mickey Harris, Queens Villitch southpaw who was horribly embarrassed before his neighbors in New York last week-end, recovered his poise by limiting the Yankees to a single run, that being Joe DiMaggio's 19th homer of the season, which was severely stroked into the left field screen on a 2-0 crippler with two out in the sixth.

Harris recovered from the shock quickly, but not so DiMaggio. He withdrew from the game after the inning, causing fans to ask one another, "What's the matter, did he hit that one too hard?"

No, it was a sore throwing arm that benched Big Joe. His arm has gradually been getting sorer since he returned to the lineup recently after recovering from a knee injury. "I thought I threw my arm away when I tried to get Doerr at third base in the fourth," said Joe. He will be out of action indefinitely.

Seventh One Run Effert

Harris wisely scattered the eight New York hits, since they consisted of four doubles and three singles, besides the home run. A funny thing about Mickey; this was his seventh one-rne game of the season, but he has yet to throw a shutout. His record now is 15-5.

Spud Chandler, Yankee starter, was beaten for the fourth time in five starts against the Red Sox. He has not won a game since July 24; his record is 15-7, and his temperature probably is 102.

The Sox made nine hits, Dom Dimaggio's double in the second being the only extra base hit. Although this came on top of Doerr's infield hit, which Henrich mistakenly left to Chandler,

the Red Sox did not score. Doerr was run down on Russell's one-bouncer to Johnson at third.

An error helped the Red Sox score the game's first run in the fourth inning. Ted Williams walked, was safe at second when Stirnweiss dropped Rizzuto's throw on Doerr's double-play grounder, and scored on York's line single over second.

With one out in the fifth, the Sox scored two more runs on successive singles by Pesky, Williams, Doerr, and York, all clean hits, before Little Dom bounced into a D.P.

Big Joe's homer in the sixth was immediately matched by the final Red Sox tally, scored on Wagner's single, Harris' sacrifice, and a hot single over first by Wally Moses, back in the lineup after a five-day layoff with an injured leg.

* * *

BOBBY SOCKS - Dave Ferriss will try to improve on his 20-4 record with his third straight victory over the Yankees today. . . .Tiny Bonham is to twirl for the Yankees. . . .Williams drew his 123d and 124th walks, the first from Chandler, the second from Cuddles Marshall, who took over after Chandler was lifted in the seventh for a pinch-hitter. . . .A yellow "H" on the scoreboard now gives a running total on hits made in the game.

* * *

DiMAG-ETTES - Williams in left stood motionless with his arms crossed before, during, and after Big Joe's homer. . . .Ted's left eye lid flickered when Joe reached second, he sighed when Joe touched third. . . .Little Dom had no idea why he failed to hold Henrich's double to right-center in the first, except to say, "I wasn't running smoothly while I was chasing it." . . .Big Joe went back by the center field fence to one-hand York's smash in the second, a hard play made easy.

MAY 23, 1964

MANTILLA'S PINCH HOMER BRINGS SOX UPHILL WIN

By Roger Birtwell, The Boston Globe

Felix the cat stole all the cream.

One run behind in the last of the ninth, with one down and Roman Mejias at first, Felix Mantilla lined a John Wyatt fast ball into Fenway Park's left field net Saturday afternoon - and gave

the Red Sox a 5 to 4 victory over Kansas City.

It was another thriller, the eighth game in nine games of the red Sox home stand that was settled by a one-run margin.

The Red Sox, trailing 3-0 behind Bill Monbouquette, fought their way from behind and - in the last of the eighth - tied the score at 3-all. then with Dick Radatz pitching in the top of the ninth, the Sox lost the lead and trailed by a run.

Against crack relief pitcher Wyatt in the last of the ninth, Bob Tillman led with a walk. then, for the second time in two innings, a Red Sox attempt at a sacrifice bunt backfired.

Mejias attempted to sacrifice Tillman along. But Tillman got a slow start, and Mejias forced him at second.

Up came Felix the Cat Mantilla, silent, smooth and quick with the bat. He hit a liner into the left field net, a few feet from the foul pole. Mejias romped home ahead of him, and the Red Sox had deadlocked the first two games of their four-game series with Kansas City.

Friday night it was Rocky Colavito. Saturday it was Jim Gentile who swung the big bat for Kansas City.

Against Monbouquette in the second inning, Gentile boomed a home run into the right field grandstand to give the A's a 1-0 lead. In the fourth Gentile hit a sky-scraping into the Red Sox bull-pen in right center to make it 2-0.

And in the fourth, after a fumble by Dalton Jones and a wild throw by Ed Bressoud on Nelson Matthew's infield roller single, Gentile lifted a sacrifice fly to right to run his RBI total to three and the K.C. lead to 3-0.

That was all Kansas City did against Monbo. When he went out for a pinch-hitter in the last of the eighth, Monbo - in eight innings - had yielded eight hits, given one walk which was intentional, and struck out 10 batters.

Aurelia Monteagudo, a 20-year-old righthanded Cuban who now makes his home in Venezuela, started for Kansas City. He has been belted around this season. But in the first four innings, the Sox did nothing against him. He held them to three singles, let only one runner reach second.

But in the fifth the Red Sox, trailing 3-0, began to find the range. Bob Tillman led by thumping a 3-1 pitch into the net near its center-field end for his third homer. Mejias followed by lining a home run into the net in left. This quickly cut the A's lead to 3-2.

Bill Monbouquette was next at bat. A's manager Ed Lopat must have feared Monbo also would homer. Lopat yanked Monteagudo and - with nobody down - Jack Aker, 23-year-old right hander from Visalia, Calif., took the mound.

The first nine men Aker faced provided nine outs, and it looked as though the stranger might protect the K.C. lead.

But in the last of the eighth, Russ Nixon batted for Monbouquette and singled to center. Dalton Jones grounded to the second base side of first baseman Jim Gentile. Gentile dived for the ball, got it, and flipped to Aker at the bag. In a close play, Jones was safe with a single.

With runners on first and second, nobody out and the Sox behind 3-2, Ed Bressoud tried to push a bunt by Gentile toward the second base sector. But Gentile speared it and threw out the Red Sox runner - Earl Wilson running for Nixon - going to third.

Tony Conigliaro, who had been moved to the No. 3 slot - Yastrzemski's old spot - in the batting order, was hit in the hip by a pitch. This loaded the bases and brought Wyatt, one of baseball's best relief pitchers, to the rescue of Aker.

With one pitch, Wyatt got the Red Sox clean-up hitter, Frank Malzone, on a pop to Causey. But then - amazingly Wyatt walked Yastrzemski on four pitched balls, pushing Jones across the plate with the tying run.

Dick Stuart, with the bases still loaded, popped a foul to third baseman Ed Charles, and the game - with Radatz replacing Monbo - went into the ninth.

But Radatz, like Wyatt, was not perfect - and first baseman Dick Stuart didn't help.

Dick Green led with a two-bagger to right center. Wyatt bunted to the right, and Stuart - attempting to nab Green going to third - threw to Malzone. Stuart's throw was wide on the plate side of the bag, Malzone having to stretch far for the ball.

With runners on first and third, the score tied and nobody down, Radatz struck out Causey and erased pinch-hitter Manny Jimenez on a pop to Bressoud.

But Charles hit a low sinking liner to left, a bit to the four-base side of Conigliaro. conigliaro, reaching down to his backhand, got his hands on the ball inches from the ground. but there was too much "sink" to it, and the ball rolled from his hands - for a single that scored Green with the tie-breaking run.

It was 4-3 for the A's going into the last of the ninth.

Then came Tillman's walk, the forceout at second, and the mantilia homer that gave the Red Sox four one-run victories in their last five games.

SEPTEMBER 19, 1936

BILLY WEIR LEADS BEES TO 5 TO 0 WIN

Allows Phillies But Four Hits And Starts Boston Attack

By Gerry Moore, The Boston Globe

Little Billy Weir, the Melrose collegian, pitched and batted himself several notches further into the hearts of his Boston baseball public yesterday as he practically dominated a 5-0 Bees' victory over the hapless Phillies before a 2274 Ladies' Day gathering at National League Field.

As far as the pitching was concerned, the chunky youngster who was graduated only last June from University of New Hampshire, southawed his way to first shutout and third triumph of his major league career by the effective process of limiting the lowly, but still potent opposition to four measly singles.

Just one alien reached as far as second base in the entire afternoon and that happened in the ninth inning as the result of a throwing miscue by "Rabbit" Warstler.

At the bat, Billy himself led the attack on his collegiate mound foe, lanky Pete Sivess, who received his diploma from Dickinson College last June also.

Single Scores Run

His first trip to the plate young Mr. Weir lashed a line single into right that scored the second of two Boston runs in the second inning. The first had come on a wild peg by Jose Gomez.

Hie second opportunity, Billy splashed a long double to right center and a few seconds later scored the final Boston run on a two-bagger to the same territory by Gene Moore. His third try the pride of Melrose drew a lead off walk that didn't amount to anything.

Thus, it is readily seen if it weren't for Wally Berger's 25th home run of the season, which came on top of a triple by the same Gene Moore in the third inning. Weir would have been just about the whole works at Allston yesterday.

However, Wally's round-tripper was a terrific line smash into the left field seats with the count two strikes and one ball on the Blond Basher and as the sock cleaned up several small friendly wagers on whether Wally would reach the quarter-century mark in homers this season, deserves proper recognition here.

All the runs thereby have been accounted for, but the description does not do justice to the one-sided element of the New Hampshire vs. Dickinson feud as 12 Bees also were left on bases.

Gave Three Passes

On the contrary, a single by "Chick" Klein with two out in the first; one by Manager Jimmy Wilson opening the fifth; the third by Charley Sheering with one out in the sixth and the final by Gomez with one out in the eighth composed the sum and substance of Philly artillery.

Weir walked three, but more than offset these lapses by compiling seven strikeouts, equalling his previous "high."

Billy's third free ticket came in the ninth after Warstler had thrown away Sheerin's leadoff grounder. That put the first invader on second, but Weir promptly fanned Rookie Corbett and Mike Arnovich, the New York-Penn League product, hit back to Billy for a double play.

JUNE 24, 1952

CROWE'S PINCH SINGLE IN 9th BEATS BUCS FOR BRAVES, 4-3

Jethroe gets Four Hits; Groat Starts Triple Play

By Clif Keane, The Boston Globe

Jim Wilson keeps right on winning, and Earl Torgeson stays in the news.

The Braves' right-hander won his seventh game and scored the winning run in the bargain in the 4-3 victory over the Pirates last night at Braves Field, while Torgeson, still a tough-luck guy, hit into the season's first triple play.

No club record showed when the last triple play was made at the park, and an old geezer like Sisti couldn't recall any in the past 12 years. Officially, the last unassisted triple play was made by the Braves' Ernie Padgett in 1923, but last night's called for a helping hand for the Pirates' \$75,000 bonus baby, Dick Groat, kid shortstop.

Torgeson, who earlier in the day had been reported as heading for Cleveland, lined a smash to Groat in the third inning. Sam Jethroe had singled to right for the first of his four hits and Bob Thorpe had walked.

With Murray Dickson on the mound for the Pirates, the

youthful Groat was holding Jethroe close to second base. Groat was about 10 feet from second base when he nabbed Torgeson's liner at his showstops, stepped on second and threw to first.

Bell Hits 9th Homer

"Everything happens to me," said Torgeson. "But we won so we'll forget it."

Groat, playing only his fifth big-league game since leaving Duke, the promising rookie admitted it was something he'd remember, but would have enjoyed it more had "we won the game."

Wilson, trying for his first shutout, worked on a 3-0 lead for seven innings. But Gus Bell, slugging left-hander, whacked one of his pitches into the rightfield bullpen with two men aboard in the eighth.

Sam Jethroe reached on Groat's error opening the first inning, and when Joe Garagiola's throw was poor trying to cut down Jethroe's steal, the Braves centerfielder sped to third base. Torgeson scored him with a line double to left field.

In the sixth, Sid Gordon walked. Dick Burris' bunt was heaved into centerfield by Dickson and Jack Dittmer's single loaded the bases. Ed Mathews whacked a tremendous fly to deep center which Bob DelGreco hauled down, Gordon scoring and Burris moving to third base. When Logan flied to right, Burris scored.

So it looked like an all-night session opening the ninth. But Wilson singled to right and rolled to third on Jethroe's poke to the same territory. George Crowe pinch-hit for Thorpe and the Pirates had a lengthy gabfest. But whatever they talked about boomeranged when Crowe smashed a clean single to right.

ABOUT TORGESON - The Braves' again denied that the first baseman was about to be sold to the Cleveland club. . . .G.M. John Quinn said: "The Braves are planning no deal regarding Torgeson with Cleveland or any other club." . . .Of course, if it could be arranged, according to Quinn, maybe the clubs could do some business if Larry Doby was included in the reported matter. . . .Torgeson apparently is destined to stay with the Braves, although some new rumor crops up every day.

* * *

ABOUT GARDENS - The Pirates had a meeting before the game and considered asking that "Grenberg Gardens," the soft spot for right handed hitters in Pittsburgh, be removed. . . .Seems that the other teams are planting more balls in there than the Pirates and although nothing definite came from the chat, it is quite possible the Pirates will pull down the short barrier.

* * *

SCATTERED PIECES - DelGreco's catch of Mathews' long smash to the 390-foot mark was a beauty. . . .The ball looked as though it might be headed for the Charles River when it left Mathews' bat. . . .but DelGreco leaned against the fence and hauled it down. . . .Ralph Kiner didn't bother Wilson much, getting a ground single to left before Bell plunked his ninth homer out of the park. . . .A perfect throw by Burris in the ninth saved trouble. . . .Strickland was cut down when he tried to steal after he walked. Dickson followed with a long double off the left field wall. . . .Strickland definitely would have scored had he stayed on first base. Max Surkont vs. Howie Pollet this afternoon in the finale.

DECEMBER 8, 1960

BURNS PACES B's OVER HAWKS, 5-1

By Tom Fitzgerald, The Boston Globe

Charley Burns, who has a large personal cheering section in the Garden, really gave his admirers something to shout about last night with a pair of goals that helped boost the Bruins to a 5 to 1 triumph over the Chicago Black Hawks.

The helmeted forward deserved every decibel of his reception, too, because he made these scores - the third and fifth for the team - while his side was short-handed.

This made a total of four goals of his aggregate of six that Charley has negotiated while killing a penalty.

The other Boston scorers were Johnny Bucyk and Don McKenney, who preceeded Burns in the three-goal first period, and Leo LaBine who connected in the second.

This was the first win on home ice for the B's after four straight losses here, a sad record reflected in last night's gathering of only 7716, smallest for a Bruins game in more than two years.

This was easily the best effort of the B's before a Boston audience, too. They attacked with consistent aggressiveness, generally passed with accuracy and precision and were sound in positional play.

Young Bruce Gamble backed this performance with a fine display in the nets. He made a large number of saves with his glove hand, one of them very early to thwart bomber Bobby Hull.

Bruce had just one lapse and it cost him his shutout chance. This came at the end of the first when Gamble went down to block a routine lift by Ab McDonald.

The goalie's stick was broken, and as he fumbled to clear the puck with his hand, Ken Wharram slipped it past him easily.

This victory unquestionably provided a bracer for the Bruins although the Hawks could enter a plea of poor physical condition. They had several members feeling low with the flu, and one player, Eric Nesterenko, who remained in the hotel because of a high temperature.

The Bruins could counter this with an absentee list that included Jerry Toppazzini, Bob Armstrong and Willie O'Ree.

Gamble's goalie rival, all star Glenn Hall, had his moments of embarrassment. One of these was on the first goal when Glenn was caught without his stick while the B's were powering during a penalty to Reg Fleming.

It took the Boston shooters some time to connect, but eventually Bucyk drew a good head on a pass from the left by Vic Stasiuk. McKenney made a wonderful individual effort at 13:07 in the first, going in with a pass from Leo Boivin. Don fended off defenseman Al Arbour, while gatting off a successful backhander.

Dallas Smith was absent at 15:20 when Burns got his first goal, cashing a rebound off the boards after a shot by Doug Mohns who broke his stick in the process.

At 7:32 in the second, LaBine deflected home a long Boivin drive, with McKenney assisting. then at 6:20 in the third, with Mohns finishing a penalty, Burns stole from Litzenberger and moved right in for a successful blast.

The Bruins are now out of the cellar, with a one-point advantage over the Rangers whom they meet in a

home-and-home week-end series - here tomorrow night and in New York Sunday.

NOVEMBER 28, 1989

BRUINS ROLL PAST THE BLUES

Carpenter and Linseman Chip In a Pair of Goals Apiece

By Kevin Paul Dupont, The Boston Globe

ST. LOUIS - Hey, not a bad town, right? On Monday, the good folks here let Tony Pena wiggle free - albeit for 6 million Red Sox greenbacks - and last night the city wrapped up a tidy little holiday present for the Bruins.

Who knows, maybe if the Duke needs a job...?

Backed by two goals each from Bobby Carpenter (Nos. 7 and 8) and Ken Linseman (Nos. 3 and 4), the Bruins stuck a 5-1 loss on the Blues in front of 15,177 at the Arena.

The Bruins didn't come out with their best, but recovered quickly in time to reverse field from Saturday's streak-snapping loss in Montreal and run their November record to 9-1-1. With a couple of assists from Andy Brickley - back after a hip injury - and more fine work from goalie Andy Mood (21 saves on the way to a 10-3-2 record), the Bruins followed their shoot-shoot-and-shoot-some-more credo to their 14th win in 23 games.

"I thought St. Louis didn't play a bad game," said coach Mike Millbury, whose club had to break a 1-1 tie in the second period. "I'm certainly not going to get into the habit of feeling bad for our opponent when they lose, but they played well. When we had the opportunities, we cashed them in."

The Bruins began going to the bank right away in the first when Carpenter broke over left wing and blistered a long-range slapper by Vince Riendeau. With precious little room on the near side, Carpenter snuck his shot just inside the left post.

"Kind of ironic, but I scored on four of those exact shots against Andy [Moog] before the game," said Carpenter. "And there it was again. Same thing. Same spot. I don't think he was ready."

Nor were the Bruins prepared for what soon followed. After seeing their seven-game winning streak end in Montreal, they didn't want to fall into a mental lapse and see a long losing streak in their future. But after the goal, they went lethargic and managed but one shot over the final 10 minutes of the first.

Meanwhile, the Blues pulled even, 1-1. Standing off the right post on a power play, Peter Zezel picked up a Glen Featherstone rebound rebound and beat Moog for what would be the only goal against the Boston goalie in his last two starts (including a 6-0 Thanksgiving win over Toronto).

"Both teams were playing the same brand of checking hockey in the first period," said Moog, who will almost definitely start tomorrow night when the Bruins face division-leading Buffalo (4-2 winners Hartford) at the Garden. "They wanted to open it up a little, and we wanted to keep it tight checking."

In the end, the Bruins got their way - and their goals.

Cam Neely, who came in tied for the league lead in goals

(17), scored the winner at 4:34 of the second - a period when the Bruins went a chilly 0 for 4 on the power play. After intercepting a pass high in his own offensive zone, Neely centered into Linseman and broke for the left post. Linseman shuttled the pass back toward Neely and the hulking wing - again on his off wing - tipped the relay onto and over Riendeau.

"I didn't know it went in," said Neely, who didn't score his 18th last season until Jan. 15, his 44th game. "I guess it hit his shoulder or something, because I didn't see it in the net until a few seconds after I shot."

From there, the Bruins at least matched the Blues stride for stride or outperformed their hard-working friends from the Norris Division. Carpenter was standing off the left post at 16:01 of the second period when Riendeau turned back a high-slot from Michael Thelvin. Easy tap-in to make it 3-1.

The third period was an all-Linseman scoring spurt. He cut over left wing at 3:18 with a Randy Burridge relay and ripped off a slapper under Riendeau's glove to make it 4-1. And with 2:10 left, trying to give the puck to Neely at the right post, he banged in his second for the 5-1 final.

Maybe it didn't have the drama of many of their wins in the recent 8-0-1 undefeated run. They also might have counted themselves lucky that they didn't walk the plank for their 10- to 15-minute lapse in the first. But the Bruins this year are finding ways to win games that they haven't in years, even when they're not operating at 100-percent efficiency.

"We'll take it under the circumstances," said Millbury. "It's important to find ways to win when you're not on top of your game."

All in all, a real nice town. What could we send them? Maybe an NFL quarterback or two? Sure, but they'd only have to forward him to Phoenix. They give everything away here.

JANUARY 28, 1968

CELTICS BURY 76ers, 115-103

**Fourth Win for Boston In 5 Games With
Philly**

By Bob Sales, The Boston Globe

The Celtics outscored the Philadelphia 76ers, 37 to 19, in the final 14 minutes Sunday afternoon to race off with a 115-to-103 victory at the Garden, much to the delight of 13,909 shrieking partisans.

The victory, Boston's fourth in five games against Philly this season, pulled the Celtics within two games of the 76ers in the National Basketball Assn.'s Eastern Division race. The teams meet again Tuesday in Philadelphia.

"I think we've got a better team," Philly coach Alex Hannum said afterward, "and we'll prove it. Our first goal is to win the Eastern Division championship and be in a favorable position for the playoffs."

"Then," he added, "we'll knock the supports right out from under them."

The Celtics, with Sam Jones popping for 22 points - 16 of them in the second period - held a four-point lead at halftime.

"Then," said Bailey Howell of the Celtics, "we played their game. We weren't able to control the defensive boards and run. The game slowed down, and that's the way they want it."

The 76ers, with Wilt Chamberlain controlling both backboards and their offense by picking the open man to pass to, went on a 14-3 streak midway through the period to open an 84-to-78 lead.

Then Bill Russell picked off a rebound and flipped the ball down court to Don Nelson under the Celtic basket. Nelson made the layup, with Hal Greer hurtling across his chest, and a free throw too. That shifted the game's beat back to the kinetic Celtic.

Two free throws and a driving layup by John Havlicek, and another layup by Nelson after a fake on Chamberlain in the final seconds of the period gave the Celtics a two-point lead. They continued to roll in the final quarter.

Free throws by Havlicek and Jones and baskets by Sam and Howell gave the Celtics a 103-to-95 lead before Chamberlain broke the ice for Philly with a turnaround jumper. There were 9 1/2 minutes left.

The 76ers were playing catch-up after that, but a succession of offensive fouls and traveling violations prevented steaks by either team.

Howell stepped in front of Wally Jones at the foul line, picked off a Hal Greer pass and dribbled three-quarters of the floor for an uncontested layup as the game entered the final two minutes. That gave the Celtics a 111-to-103 lead and the crowd started to rumble. It got louder moments later when Havlicek hit from the right corner.

The rumble turned into a roar with 20 seconds to go. The countdown started when the clock showed six seconds, followed by shouts of "Philly is dead" and "We're No. 1." It isn't that easy.

"What do we have, 32 more games?" wondered Sam Jones, who wound up with 29 points to tie Howell for high-scoring honors. "We've got to win close to 25. That's tough. How many more we got with Philadelphia, two?" The answer was three.

"Too bad," said Sam, shaking his head. "I was hoping it was two."

DECEMBER 20, 1990

NO SWEAT FOR CELTICS

Outgunned Hornets Never Had a Shot This Time

By Joe Burris, The Boston Globe

CHARLOTTE - The first 30-45 minutes before a Celtics game at Charlotte is very important to Hornets fans. They travel up Tobacco Road from as far as Florida for this pregame ritual. They point their fingers, press their Kodaks, hollar out their favorite player's name, beg for autographs and have one dandy time. Tourism at its finest.

It's good that Hornets fans enjoy those minutes, because last night Boston proved once again that there's no reason whatsoever to get excited about the 48 that follow.

The Celtics last night continued their dominance over the expansion team they have yet to lose to in 10 games. Reggie

Lewis led five players in double figures with 24 points as the Celtics blew a relatively close game away in the third period and coasted to a 115-96 victory. The win is the sixth straight for the Celtics, who improved the second-best record in the NBA to 21-4. Charlotte, now 8-15, not only lost its eighth straight but also its fan support, long before the final buzzer.

Kevin McHale added 20 points and 15 boards off the bench and Larry Bird and Kevin Gamble scored 16 points each, as the starters rested through much of the fourth quarter. Charlotte, which had a few eye-catching moments early, missed far too many shots to keep it interesting for four periods.

Mind you, this is the same team that shot 53 percent from the floor against Boston the last time the two played. Charlotte lost that one, 135-126, at the garden. this time they had the home-court advantage, and the Celtics were coming off a big win over Philly the night before.

Didn't matter. Charlotte couldn't match its output at the Garden, shooting a measly 29 percent in the first half. The Hornets finished at 43 percent, but many of their attempts fell in the fourth period, when the outcome was no longer in doubt. Meanwhile, the Celtics shot 50 percent in both halves and outrebounded the Hornets, 56-38.

"We had better defense, and Charlotte didn't shoot as well as they did at the Garden," said Robert Parish, who scored 12 points and held J.R. Reid to just 2. "In that game, they all shot well from the floor. [Last night] I was all over [Reid], plus I had a lot of help from my teammates. They didn't have the luxury they had at Boston."

"We didn't play as well as we could have in the first half," said coach Chris Ford, "but we blew the game open in the third. Right now, we have great confidence in our game, bot offensively and defensively."

Leading, 56-46, at the half and sensing the Hornets would try to rally as soon as the third quarter began, the Celtics outscored Charlotte, 10-3, over the first two minutes of the period for a 66-49 lead with 9:58 left.

"We definitely knew they were thinking of making a run," said Parish. "We know they went in at halftime and had a pep talk. They came out with fire in their eyes."

"I definitely thought they'd come out and be more aggressive," said Lewis. "We made sure that we didn't get ourselves in a hole to have to fight out of."

Lewis' 3-point play began a 10-4 surge that upped the score to 76-53 with 6:28 left. The Hornets tried to counter with shots inside but simply could not convert, much to the chagrin of a crowd that grew more and more disinterested as the game wore on. Midway through the fourth, the Charlotte Coliseum had become a tourist distraction; the fans bundled up and headed elsewhere.

"We didn't do anything special," said Bird, asked how the Celtics kept Charlotte from equaling its 53-percent output. "They just missed their shots. They had opportunities, but they just didn't go down."

"Everybody was involved in our offense tonight. Nobody shined but everybody played well. That is how we usually do it." Right now, they're doing it better than 25 teams in the NBA.

Boston Vintage Sports Flashback

Published every 2 weeks by David C. Southwick. Published for informational, research and entertainment purposes only. Publisher may be reached at soxpapers@gmail.com